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A CARD TO THE PUBLIC,

—DEFENDING—

Hon. James J. Strang.

Who was the successor of Joseph Smith to the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints—even a Prophet, Seer, Revelator and Translator. Also an Hon. Member of the Michigan Legislature.

WHEREAS: Certain parties have of late been slandering the Hon. James J. Strang, we thought it only just to give the public what we find on the page of history concerning Mr. Strang.

These parties testify he was not President of the Church, and charge him with fraud and forgery and was not by the public recognized as President and Prophet of the Church. We present these Journalists on the witness stand as witnesses to the world on how Prophet Strang was identified by the Church and public from June 27, 1844, to July 9, 1856, and we want no better men on the stand to impeach every man of the slandering parties. With these witnesses we will cheerfully rest our case.

Mr. Strang was a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to a lodge in Burlington, Wis., and his funeral was attended by members of that order.

We were also personally acquainted with the Prophet James J. Strang; and were with him in faith and works; when he was shot by the assassins, as they did Joseph and Hyrum. And we witness to all the world that he was a Prophet, Seer, Revelator and Translator of the most high God.

Truly and Sincerely,

L. D. HICKEY.

D. B. ALBERT.

Testimony of the Michigan Press.

The Beaver Island Troubles.—The letter from James J. Strang, the Mormon leader on Beaver Island, will attract attention. It is a reply to the letter of a correspondent who spoke freely against the alleged conduct of the Mormons. As a matter of justice we give Mr. Strang's letter, with the remark that it is accompanied with very ample evidence of his respectability, from those who have had excellent opportunities of forming a correct opinion.—Rochester Democrat, August 27. 1853.

King Strang's senatorial career has been eloquent and honorable.—Detroit Free Press, Feb. 14, 1853.

We went into the House to hear the arguments upon the contested seats from Newaygo county. King Strang plead his right in a masterly and convincing manner. He is a talented man equal to any other man in debate and general information.—Jackson Citizen, Feb. 10, 1853.

The case of James Barton, contesting the seat of Hon. J. J. Strang, is yet undecided. Mr. Strang presents and argues his case in person, with a force of reasoning, energy and eloquence which, whatever may be the result, will leave a most favorable opinion of his personal qualifications for the position he claims.—Mich. State Journal, Jan. 10, 1853. .

The Mormon Prophet, Strang, more familiarly known as King Strang, was yesterday arrested by a Detroit officer

upon a bench warrant. Strang claimed his privilege as a member, and sustained his position in an able speech. His arrest he attributed to malice, and the position was sustained by strong proof. The house today discharged him from arrest, in spite of a strong and powerful prejudice against him. Today Messrs. Barton and Sutherland, who are contesting the seats of Messrs. Strang and Hoyt, (the former of Emmet and the latter of Saginaw) made their arguments before the committee on elections. The Prophet was again on hand, and in a speech of much strength, shrewdness and tact, maintained his right to be enrolled among the honorables of Michigan.—Pontiac Jacksonian, Jan. 11, 1853.

Mr. Strang is confessedly the most talented and ready debater in the House. He seems equally ready on any subject, political, commercial, financial, judicial, educational, or anything else within the range of legislation. He is bold, decided, positive—and woe to him who provokes his satire and sarcasm, for his wit is as unmerciful as it is ready in retort. He is ardent, passionate and rapid in his oratory, even to a fault—but is clear and forcible in argument, and never fails to make himself understood.—Temperance Advocate, Feb. 10, 1853.

There is no one of the advocates of a general law able to measure swords with Strang in debate, and they all know it, so they fight him out doors and in, by low insinuations about "Beaver Island."

Such a mode of dealing with one who ever treats every member like a gentleman, without intruding upon them or the House his peculiar religious views, is not exactly "on the square," but he is able, and will take care of himself.—Detroit Advertiser, Feb. 5, 1853.

Col. DeLand, of the Saginaw (Mich.) Herald, says: "We know Mr. Strang well, and that he was a far better man than he has at times been represented. As a legislator he was vigilant, careful and just; and some of the best laws of Michigan made in those days were made by his pen and influence."

Col. DeLand was Clerk and reporter in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Strang's course, as a member of the present Legislature, has disarmed much of the prejudice which had previously surrounded him. Whatever may be said or thought of the peculiar sect of WHICH HE IS THE HEAD, throughout this session he has conducted himself with a degree of decorum and propriety which have been equaled by his industry, sagacity, good temper, apparent regard for the true interests of the people, and the obligations of his official oath.—Detroit Advertiser, Feb. 10, 1853.

Testimony of the Old Pioneers of Burlington, Wisconsin.

Some two years ago we put out the preceding testimonials to the public defending the Honorable James J. Strang against the lies and false tales of some of the elders of the Josephite church. We got 500 of them printed and took most of them to Utah. We found a people out there ready to take them and read the testimony of the principal editors of Michigan and the testimony was credited and gave such universal satisfaction that we have been requested to send out a second edition, adding the testimony of the old pioneers of Burlington, Wisconsin, where Mr. Strang resided before and after he was called to the presidency by Joseph Smith, in May, 1844.

In the spring of '94, the writer of this article visited Burlington, Wis., to learn what the old pioneers of Mr. Strang's old home had to say of him. Mr. Strang's old neighbors yet live and though old, they have no ill or evil report of him.

We called upon the old postmaster who was eighty years old, yet smart and ready to give us all the facts we desired. We also called on an old doctor and questioned these gentlemen and from them learned Mr. Strang was a good citizen. And they told us any man, elder or not, he could not be a man of truth when charging Mr. Strang with want of good moral character. They told us—before he joined the Mormons—he was clerk in the Baptist church and

stood well as a Christian among other citizens.

We saw an ex-member of congress, who was magistrate while Messrs. Strang and Barns were practicing law in Burlington. This gentleman informed us Mr. Strang was a good lawyer and an honorable man. As for Barns & Strang ever trying to impose on the Mormon people, he did not believe it, even if elders or deacons told it.

We called on some of the old farmers who well remembered Barns & Strang. One said he cared not what elders or bishops said of them; if any man said they got up a prank on the Mormons, he felt safe in saying he was a liar and knave. We also called at the bank and found parties well acquainted with both Strang and Barns and we here met with the same report we gained from others.

Myself and Elder Wingfield Watson traveled with horse and buggy some twelve miles to learn from the old settlers the real facts relative to the character of Mr. Strang. The result of our enquiring was that we did not find a man that said an unkind word of Mr. Strang or Mr. Barns.

Taking the testimony of the editors of Michigan and the testimony of Mr. Strang's old neighbors, who knew him both before and after he was called to the prophetic office, we feel safe in trusting our case in the hands of the public, who will render a verdict in favor of Mr. Strang, and convict the slanderers, elders who have tried to build up their

rotten claims by defaming (or trying to) the worthy dead.

We do not publish this card to prove to the world that Mr. Strang was a prophet, but we send it out to show that he was a good, moral citizen and to show those slanderers elders were liars and knaves.

Having proved Mr. Strang's character, we will now prove by the laws of the church and sound reason he was the only man who ever claimed to have been the legal successor of Joseph Smith.

In conclusion we say we have proved Mr. Smith, prior to his death, pointed out the policy to be taken at his death in relation to a successor and it was clearly laid down in the discipline of the church that we might not be deceived. And we are safe in saying Mr. James J. Strang was the only man that made claims agreeing with that policy.

We, the defenders of the work and doctrine Joseph Smith who died to plant in the hearts and heads of the people the great cardinal principles of Christianity, stand ready and willing, at all times, to defend it against any who dare come to the front like honest men, to present their own claims or try to put his down.

And we say the same to all or any who dare come to the front and try to defend their mistaken claims against Mr. Strang's claims and teachings.

L. D. HICKEY.
JOHN WAKE.